

Draft Statement of Representative Henry A. Waxman
Parkinson's Action Network
October 1, 2014

It's a pleasure to be here with my friends Orrin and Fred, with Diane Rehm, and with so many people from the Parkinson's Action Network. We've been working together for a long time, and we've made a good team.

Over the years, people said that the work couldn't be done.

- They said that stem-cell research was too politically controversial.
- They said that increased funding for research was too expensive.
- They said that getting generic drugs was opposed by too many powerful interests.

But each time, our team proved those people to be wrong. We have overturned the stem-cell ban. We have gotten new research funding for Parkinson's. And we have a successful system of generic-drug approval (which has the very nice name of "Hatch-Waxman").

These successes happened because the Parkinson's Action Network has had some extraordinary people to tell their real-life stories. Joan Samuelson told of her diagnosis at a very young age. Anne Udall told of her father's illness. Mort Kondracke told of the life and death of his wife, Milly.

And when politicians hear these real stories, they have to reconsider their stands and reconsider what's possible. Fred, Orrin, and I can write legislative language. Only real people like this Network can make them law.

I've enjoyed being part of your team over the years. I've always known that I could rely on you. I'm retiring from Congress now, but I'm not retiring from these issues. I hope you know that you can always rely on me in the future.

Thank you.